

Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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----- 104601

R 231130Z OCT 74

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2982

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

CINCEUR

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LUSAKA ALSO FOR ASST SECY EASUM

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, MILI, MZ

SUBJ: LOURENCO MARQUES DISTURBANCES -- OCTOBER 19-22

1. FOLLOWING IS ANALYTICAL RECAPITULATION OF DISTURBANCES
REGISTERED IN LOURENCO MARQUES OCTOBER 19-22:

(A) TENSION BUILT UP OVER WEEKEND OF OCTOBER 19-21 AND GENERAL
FEELING AMONG RESIDENTS OF LOURENCO MARQUES WAS THAT "SOMETHING"
WAS GOING TO HAPPEN, WITH RUMORS RUNNING WILD. PORTUGUESE
COMMANDO TROOPS WITH "GREEN BERET" MENTALITY AND ONLY RECENTLY
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KILLING FRELIMO UP UNTIL THE CEASE-FIRE WERE CLEARLY SPORTING FOR

FIGHT. AS ONE SOURCE PUT IT, THEY SEEMED BENT ON GETTING "LAST LICKS AT FRELIMO" BEFORE BEING REPATRIATED TO PORTUGAL. SOME WERE SEEN DISTRIBUTING ANTI-FRELIMO PAMPHLETS--INDICATION THAT THEY MAY HAVE RECEIVED SOME ENCOURAGEMENT AND ASSISTANCE FROM ANTI-FRELIMO CIVILIANS STILL BENT ON STIRRING UP TROUBLE.

(B) FOLLOWING SHOOTING SPREE (FIRING IN AIR) BY ANGRY COMMANDOS ENCAMPED NEAR ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON, IT WAS CLEAR POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE SITUATION EXISTED AND THAT CONFRONTATION BETWEEN PORTUGUESE COMMANDOS AND FRELIMO TROOPS COULD ERUPT AT ANY MOMENT (LOURENCO MARQUES 931). MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT AND OTHER PORTUGUESE FORCES APPARENTLY TRIED BUT WERE UNABLE TO CONTROL THEM.

(C) DIRECT CONFRONTATION OCCURRED DURING EVENING RUSH HOUR MONDAY, OCTOBER 21. COMMANDOS KILLED TWO FRELIMO SOLDIERS AND GENERAL SHOOTING ENSUED, WITH VARIOUS CIVILIAN CASUALTIES. NEWS THAT PORTUGUESE SOLDIERS HAD KILLED FRELIMO SOLDIERS SPREAD LIKE LIGHTNING TO AFRICAN SUBURBS, WHERE ANGRY AFRICAN MOBS IMMEDIAELY STARTED RETALIATING AGAINST WHITES IN THOSE AREAS--KILLING, BEATING, AND DAMAGING PROPERTY, MAINLY CARS. ACCORDING TO REUTERS CORRESPONDENT, WHO WENT TO SUBURBS, THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE THAT WHITES WENT TO SUBURBS TO KILL BLACKS, AS OCCURRED DURING SEPTEMBER 7-12 DISTURBANCES--VERSION WHICH IS BEING CARRIED IN LOCAL PRESS IN APPARENT ATTEMPT TO PERSUADE WHITES THAT BLACKS WERE JUSTIFIABLY PROVOKED. INCIDENTS CONTINUED THROUGH NIGHT AND EARLY MORNING OF OCTOBER 21.

(D) GOVERNMENT SECURITY FORCES MANAGED TO ROUND-UP MOST OF PORTUGUESE COMMANDOS DURING NIGHT OF OCT 21 AND THE TWO COMPANIES PRESENT IN LOURENCO MARQUES WERE PUT ON PLANES TO NAMPULA, FROM WHERE THEY WILL BE SENT BACK TO PORTUGAL, ACCORDING TO HIGH COMMISSIONER.

(E) FRELIMO REPRESENTATIVES WERE SENT OUT INTO SUBURBS TO ATTEMPT TO CALM DOWN POPULATION AND RESTORE ORDER. HIGH COMMISSIONER CRESPO AND PRIME MINISTER CHISSANO MADE SEVERAL SPEECHES PLACING BLAME ON HANDFUL OF REACTIONARIES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHO HAD ATTACKED BOTH BLACKS AND WHITES. INTENT OF SPEECHES WAS CLEARLY TO PERSUADE BLACK POPULATION NOT TO RETALIATE INDISCRIMINATELY AGAINST WHITES, WHICH DID HAVE SOME OF DESIRED EFFECT IN THAT ATROCITIES WERE CONFINED TO OUTER CITY. NEVERTHELESS, EFFECT ON WHITE POPULATION WAS ONLY TO CONFIRM FEARS THAT BLACKS WERE KILLING WHITES FOR PURELY RACIAL REASONS. REPORTS FROM THE HOSPITALS INDICATED MOST OF THE VICTIMS WERE WHITE (LOCAL SECRETARY VISITED HOSPITAL

MORGUE TO IDENTIFY HER BROTHER-IN-LAW WHO WAS BEATEN TO DEATH AND REPORTED SEEING AROUND FIFTY BODIES, MOSTLY WHITE, ALL BADLY DEFACED).

2. COMMENT: MAIN EFFECT OF DISTURBANCES WILL BE TO ACCELERATE WHITE EXODUS FROM MOZAMBIQUE, LEADING TO FURTHER DETERIORATION IN SECTORS OF ECONOMY REQUIRING SKILLED LABOR OR PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE. (LOURENCO MARQUES PORT OPERATIONS PROCEEDING SLOWLY BECAUSE OF STRIKE OF WHITE PORTUGUESE PILOTS DEMANDING REPATRIATION OF THEIR FAMILIES TO PORTUGAL AND 50 PERCENT OF SALARIES DEPOSITED IN PORTUGAL) ALTHOUGH ORDER HAS BEEN RESTORED, WHITES HAVE NO CONFIDENCE SECURITY FORCES OF FRELIMO-DOMINATED TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT WILL BE ABLE TO CONTROL BLACK POPULATION IN FUTURE DISTURBANCES, PARTICULARLY AFTER BULK OF THE PORTUGUESE GROUND FORCES LEAVE. MOREOVER, RACIAL TENSION CONTINUES HIGH ON BOTH SIDES. CONSUL GENERAL RETURNED FROM BEIRA BY AIR EVENING OF OCTOBER 22.
WALKER

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